



Washington State Part C System Improvement Project

January 2011 Update

Data Gathering and Planning Training and Technical Assistance

In January, the local lead agencies (LLAs) were again outstanding partners in our system improvement project (SIP) work as seen in their data gathering efforts for the cost study. On January 12, the LLAs participated in a conference call with our cost study contractors (Berk and Associates) about the data request. Great discussion points came up in the conversation and a “Q and A” document was shared with the LLAs shortly thereafter. Completion of the data request by LLAs has been outstanding and we deeply appreciate everyone’s efforts. Already, we are gaining good insight into the exact nature of the resource challenges facing Part C early intervention providers in Washington.

Work on integrating public feedback on the new Individualized Family Service Plan – Process Document (IFSP-PD) continued throughout January. Analysis is currently underway to identify those changes that can be made while still meeting all federal and state Part C requirements. Additionally, we are working with the data management system (DMS) staff to ensure that the IFSP-PD and the new DMS are smoothly integrated and optimally functional for LLAs, providers and staff. Part of this work in January included the drafting of a training and technical assistance guide that will accompany the new IFSP-PD and also be integrated into the DMS.

Work on the three online training modules continued with a focus on coordinating the modules with other ongoing training and technical assistance and planning for pilot testing. As part of this effort, the ESIT staff and SIP consultants from around the country came together for three days of planning at the end of January. The focus of these three days was on ensuring that the disparate ARRA funded system activities (such as the cost study and the development of the new DMS) are fully integrated with the SIP work. One entire day was devoted to meeting with the Washington Training and Technical Assistance Cadre (WATTAC). This allowed WATTAC to both better inform the development of the modules, and come together in order to identify common core training needs and challenges facing **all** Part C programs and staff, those facing **some** programs, and those areas of need that only apply to a **few** programs or individuals. Increased coordination around training and technical assistance is expected to improve the quality of all trainings both in the short and long term.